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Action
ARA

Control: 9463
Rec'd: June 18, 1954
10:35 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1038, June 18, 5 p.m.

NIACT

In press conference today of which Embassy has only fragmentary account, Foreign Minister Toriello announced "battle of Guatemala has begun." He said armed forces had crossed Honduran border and that unidentified plane had bombed gasoline installations on Pacific coast (presumably San Jose). He released text of telegram of June 17 to Foreign Minister Valenzuela requesting Honduras disarm Guatemalan exiles (EMBTEL 1037, June 18) and said he was sure Nicaraguan government also involved in plot headed by Castilloarmas and financed by "known foreign interests." Holding up Mexican newspaper quoting President Eisenhower as endorsing Secretary Dulles' statement that Guatemala was suffering Communist reign of terror, Toriello said he did not see how head of friendly state could make such remarks.

Asked if Guatemala would declare war on Honduras, Toriello replied, "not now."

Foregoing quotes received from American newsmen whose Spanish is limited; hence probably not entirely correct.

PEURIFOY

RWN/11

NOTE: Read by Mr. Hill (ARA) at 11:10 p.m., 6/18/54. NPL.

D Brubeck 2/7/82

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